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## House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, March 23, 2020, at 11:30 a.m.

## Senate

FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 2020

The Senate met at 12 noon and was called to order by the Honorable JOHN KENNEDY, a Senator from the State of Louisiana.

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal Lord, You are worthy of our praise. Save us from the forces that threaten our Nation and world.

Lord, inspire our lawmakers, even though the Earth seems to tremble and the mountains seem to shake. May our Senators embrace Your Divine principles and live blameless lives. Give them the wisdom to labor with integrity and to seek Your Divine approval. Illuminate the darkness that inevitably comes, and lead them to Your desired destination.

Empower us all, Almighty God, with the faith that will keep us sure-footed, even in slippery places.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication

to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,

Washington, DC, Friday, March 20, 2020.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JOHN KENNEDY, a Senator from the State of Louisiana, to perform the duties of the Chair.

CHUCK GRASSLEY,  
President pro tempore.

Mr. KENNEDY thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak in morning business for 3 minutes.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

### CORONAVIRUS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, on September 11, America was attacked by evil. Thousands of our countrymen were murdered by terrorists. In an instant, the Nation was gripped with fear and anxiety. And as our buildings burned, we mourned the loss of our fellow Americans, but as we mourned, we also became very united as a country. We came together and stood as one against a common enemy. That unity laid a foundation for our victory, and it helped our military men and women deliver justice to those who sought to destroy us.

Now, we confront a similar challenge. Unlike the 9/11 attacks, our enemy today is faceless. We can't see or hear that enemy. We can't send our Armed Forces to hunt it down and protect us, but much like our response to the terrorist attacks nearly 20 years ago, we must unite as a country. The threat we face is perhaps the greatest since World War II. So much like our response to the terrorist attacks 20 years ago, we will be united.

Never before have we shuttered so much of our country: businesses closing, restaurants particularly, all kinds of—just stay at home, in other words. Never before has our society changed so much, seemingly overnight.

The coronavirus issue could prove as deadly as any war in recent history, and that is why it is everyone's responsibility to do their part.

In Congress, we have already passed legislation to provide emergency relief, and our job isn't done yet. Further, unprecedented economic and public health support is on the way, but what we do in Washington and State capitols across our country is only one part of that solution. It is the civic duty of every community, every family, and every individual to enlist in this fight.

Make no mistake, our Nation is at war—a war on our own soil. This war and this enemy aren't like anything that we fought before. Our strategy and tactics will be different, but the stakes are just as high.

This war will not be waged on foreign lands with tanks or guns or troops. It will be waged right here in hospitals and public places and in homes and with personal responsibility, personal

• This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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